

A woman with a yellow headscarf and a floral shirt is working in a field, using a hoe to dig the soil. She is wearing a pink skirt. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees and hills under a cloudy sky.

# Climate Justice and Women's Rights:

A Guide to Supporting  
Grassroots Women's Action

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Global Greengrants Fund  
The International Network of Women's Funds  
and the Alliance of Funds

**2015**

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**THE ALLIANCE OF FUNDS** is a consortium of seven independent, grassroots, environmental funds that make small grants to community-based environmental groups. The Alliance includes:



**Living Earth Foundation**



Learn more through [WomenAndClimate.org](http://WomenAndClimate.org), Global Greengrants at +1-303-939-9866 or [Gender@greengrants.org](mailto:Gender@greengrants.org), or the International Network of Women's Funds at [info@inwf.org](mailto:info@inwf.org).

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“If the forests are saved, our culture will be restored. If we are to be happy, the forests have to be healthy.”

— Suryamani Bhagat

organizer in the Jharkhand  
Save the Forest Movement, India



Photo: Katie Fogleman

Suryamani Bhagat was supposed to be a teacher. But after earning a degree in Sanskrit, she felt a calling to protect the forest near her homeland from destruction and exploitation. So at age 20, she quit teaching to become a grassroots environmental activist and leader, joining a long tradition of indigenous women who have spearheaded forest conservation movements throughout India.

Suryamani began organizing forest protection committees, youth groups and women's cooperatives, and ultimately launched the Jharkhand Save the Forest Movement. After years of local work, in 2008 the group joined a nationwide campaign that persuaded the government to establish a new Forest Rights Act. This act overturned a century-old law and made it possible for indigenous people to legally own and manage their forests. Suryamani then worked tirelessly to educate communities about the law and train them to file claims, map forests and identify and manage forest use. As a result, forests surrounding 45 villages are slowly but steadily rejuvenating and growing healthier.

Suryamani's path has not been an easy one, though. Officials and logging companies have verbally harassed, chased and threatened her. She has walked alone for miles, urging villagers to reclaim their forests and protect their way of life. But the support of her community and access to small grants gives her the strength to continue her mission.

# Background and Purpose of This Guide

Suryamani Bhagat and other grassroots women leaders are waging successful struggles to protect their communities, lands and human rights. They have stopped large-scale dams, deforestation, monocropping, oil and gas development, mining and polluting industries, which all contribute to climate change. These threats to the environment put women's livelihoods, families, health, security, rights and cultures at risk. Like Suryamani, a growing number of women are recognizing that their activism is essential to improving not only their own lives, but also the health of the planet. And yet, even though climate chaos disproportionately impacts women, women have less access than men to decision-makers, funding and climate-related information and knowledge.

Research clearly shows that women throughout the world are particularly vulnerable to the threats posed by a changing climate.<sup>1</sup> In countries where there is marked gender inequality, four times as many women as men die during floods.<sup>2</sup> In some disasters, women and children have been 14 times more likely to die than men.<sup>3</sup> This phenomenon will grow more frequent with global warming.

Most funders lack adequate programs or systems to support grassroots women and their climate change solutions. Men receive far greater resources for climate-related initiatives because they tend to wage larger-scale, more public efforts, whereas women's advocacy is typically locally based and less visible, making it more difficult for funders to find and support. Only .01 percent of all worldwide grant dollars support projects that address both climate change and women's rights—a clear reflection of this critical funding gap.<sup>4</sup>

Funders, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and governments have begun to acknowledge that women are more vulnerable to climate chaos, but few devote attention to the women who are already forging powerful solutions for climate change. Much of this is due to the fact that environmental and women's funders, along with other types of funders positioned to support women's grassroots climate change initiatives, often operate in separate circles—even though they have much to share when it comes to strategies, political analyses and lessons learned. There is an urgent need around the world to ensure women at the local level have adequate information, support for their own solutions and priorities, rights to natural resources and a voice at the table where climate policy is discussed.

In August 2014, nearly 100 grassroots leaders and representatives from environmental and women's funders gathered for a Summit on Women and Climate in Bali, Indonesia. Participants included both indigenous and non-indigenous women leaders from Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, North and South America and Europe. The Summit was hosted by the largest global funders of grassroots organizations: Global Greengrants Fund, the International Network of Women's Funds (INWF) and the Alliance of Funds. Collectively, these networks distribute 3,000 grants per year, totaling approximately \$45 million, in 125 countries.





Women often work closest to natural resources that are impacted by climate change. Photo: Kenya, Global Greengrants.

The Summit was designed to build relationships and improve collaboration between environmental and women's funders. The ultimate goals were to increase funding for women's climate change initiatives and to amplify grassroots women's voices in shaping donor agendas. Attendees discussed the need to:

1. Address the immediate climate change impacts on grassroots women's livelihoods, territories and rights.
2. Recognize, value and more effectively support women's grassroots efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect forests and other carbon-rich environments.
3. Facilitate efforts to increase women's participation in climate change policymaking at the local, national and international levels.
4. Strengthen women's voices and actions in movements that support women's rights and climate justice.

This Guide emerged from the Summit, and aims to increase timely and appropriate funding for worldwide climate action initiatives led by women and their communities. The Guide is not a comprehensive resource on climate change or women's rights. Instead, it addresses an urgent need within the funding community and offers concrete, practical guidance that:

- » Orients grantmakers to the importance of funding at the intersection of climate justice and women's rights.
- » Draws lessons from specific examples of funding for women's climate change initiatives.
- » Provides guidance on how funders can collaborate to direct timely and appropriate funding to women and their communities.
- » Advocates for bringing women's voices into climate change policy discussions.
- » Highlights the strong impact that small (less than \$10,000) to medium-sized (\$10,000-\$50,000) grants can make in women-organized efforts to address climate change at the community level, across geographic boundaries and in global climate policy.

Grassroots women's climate activism is becoming increasingly critical to women's collective and individual rights, freedom and survival. It is equally critical that donors, foundations and policymakers understand and fund that activism.

# Build Common Cause Between Environmental and Women's Funders

Environmental and women's funders often view the work they finance as completely separate. But based on their own funding experiences, participants from both groups who attended the Summit on Women and Climate noted some clear overlaps and potential synergies in grantmaking.

## For instance:

- » Over 55 percent of Global Greengrants' grants in a 21-month period supported climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. Twenty-three percent of that money was given to women-led groups, and 9 percent explicitly focused on ensuring that women's voices were heard by decision-makers.
- » Nearly half of the International Network of Women's Funds' members give grants to women's groups dealing with environmental issues, although most of these groups do not explicitly focus on climate change.

Grassroots initiatives are another common thread that unites environmental and women's funders. But communities face multiple issues, so often, funding a single initiative does not address the interaction between women's rights, environmental justice and climate change. In fact, environmental and women's funders occasionally fund the same grantee, but for different reasons. Summit participants noted that grassroots funders, because of the nature of their community-based approach, are well positioned to translate how local issues tackle multiple rights and policy perspectives.

Funders can avoid silos and collaborate more effectively on climate change and women's rights by following the suggestions in this section.



Social and cultural inequalities often limit people's participation in environmental interventions.  
Photo: Chile, Global Greengrants.



## Know Each Other's Basic Concepts

*“It is funders who tend to conceptualize things in very separate ways—as either women’s rights or environmental rights. If we look at grassroots movements, there is a merging of concepts. We need to re-conceptualize our work so that it is a real reflection of work on the ground.”*

— Laura Garcia, executive director of Semillas, Mexico

In order to develop effective and lasting climate change and women’s rights interventions, it is important to understand basic climate change concepts, funding priorities and the gender dimensions that impact women’s rights.

Among environmental funders, climate change actions fall into two broad areas—adaptation and mitigation.

**Adaptation** refers to adjusting natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climate changes.<sup>5</sup>

**Mitigation** refers to human activities that reduce the sources of greenhouse gases or enhance carbon-capturing sinks like forests, oceans and soil.<sup>6</sup>

Adaptive actions often have mitigating effects, and vice versa. For example, replacing wood-burning stoves with solar energy reduces deforestation and “black carbon” (mitigation), and simultaneously decreases vulnerability to flooding by protecting areas where trees and vegetation prevent soil loss (adaptation). Flexibility is important; rigid definitions of mitigation and adaptation tend to work against more efficient, holistic approaches to climate change at the local level.

Women’s funders support projects that seek to protect, enhance or promote women’s rights and freedoms in order to achieve greater social equality. This funding includes the full spectrum of human rights—physical, political, social, economic and environmental.

**Women’s rights** are an essential component of universal human rights, and reflect men and women’s very different experiences. It is essential to understand that women and girls often face gender-based discrimination that increases their risk of poverty, violence, illness and a poor education.

Climate change does not impact everyone equally. Women are disproportionately affected because they are often the ones who work closest to natural resources that are impacted by climate change (they gather wood for fuel, collect water and farm on a small scale). In addition, social and cultural inequalities often deprive women of information about climate change and limit their participation in decision-making processes about mitigation and adaptation plans.





Forest communities are increasingly threatened by carbon-intensive industries. Photo: Guatemala, Global Greengrants.

## EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION

Environmental funders are likely financing initiatives that address women's rights, and women's funders are likely indirectly financing initiatives that address climate change adaptation or mitigation. Inevitably, climate change will impact women's rights grantees, and gender and women's rights are key to an effective, comprehensive approach to climate justice.

**Climate justice** acknowledges the need for equitable stewardship of the world's resources, and calls for an understanding of climate change in relationship to environmental and social justice.<sup>7</sup> This can include issues such as equality, human rights, collective rights and historical responsibility and how each relates to climate change. In addition, climate justice addresses the fact that those least responsible for climate change experience its greatest impacts. The term also refers to legal systems that achieve justice through development and implementation of climate change-related laws.

Taking a climate-justice approach to grantmaking not only protects women's rights, it also promotes them. Climate change interventions can be a critical entry point for promoting women's land rights, economic and cultural rights, access to decision-making processes and political participation. Importantly, a climate-justice approach also recognizes that although women's participation in climate change interventions is crucial, their involvement does not automatically mean greater gender equality and can even increase women's social and economic burdens.

## Environmental Issues Through a Climate and Women's Lens

Environmental Issue <sup>8</sup>	Climate Lens	Women's Lens <sup>9</sup>
<b>Energy and Mining</b>  (fossil fuels, hydropower)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Fossil fuels produce carbon emissions.</li> <li>» Coal extraction techniques such as mountaintop removal destroy landscapes that store carbon.</li> <li>» Large-scale dams produce massive amounts of the greenhouse gas methane.<sup>10</sup></li> <li>» Dam construction and mining activities result in deforestation and vegetation loss.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Women are less likely than men to be compensated for community displacement or livelihood destruction caused by resource extraction.</li> <li>» Energy projects bring an influx of men to the community, creating gender dynamics that can erode women's rights (increased exposure to sexually transmitted diseases), but also increase women's economic options (roadside stands, etc.).</li> <li>» Women resource rights activists are often targeted by the government and private sector in a different way than male activists. These women can face violence, including sexual assault.</li> </ul>
<b>Land Use and Livelihoods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Forests absorb more carbon than they emit. Forest clearing accounts for about one-sixth of global carbon emissions.<sup>11</sup></li> <li>» Industrial agriculture and livestock production account for half of the world's human-caused greenhouse gases, when processing, packaging and transport are considered.<sup>12</sup></li> <li>» Synthetic nitrogen fertilizer breaks down into nitrous oxide—one of the most potent greenhouse gases.<sup>13</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Women (especially indigenous women) depend on forests for food, health (medicinal plants) and livelihoods (fuel, dye). When forests are destroyed, so are the products women need to survive.</li> <li>» Women comprise 43 percent of the agricultural labor force in non-industrialized countries, but they have few to no land rights and are frequently excluded from land-use decisions.<sup>14</sup></li> <li>» In regions with restricted land rights, women can be forcibly displaced and lose access to fertile land for growing food.</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Disasters and Migration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Climate disasters are growing increasingly frequent and severe and can lead to temporary or permanent community displacement.</li> <li>» Competition over diminishing resources can trigger conflict or forced migration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Women are many times more likely than men to die during disasters.</li> <li>» Women have specific requirements during disaster response (sanitation, security, privacy, child-related concerns).</li> <li>» Migration of men who have lost their livelihoods due to climate change leads women to take on wider community-leadership roles. This can considerably increase women's burden.</li> <li>» In post-disaster relief shelters or temporary camps, women experience high levels of violence.</li> </ul>

For more information on climate relevant activities, see [Appendix A](#).





The following is an example of an organization that has received support from both environmental and women's funders. It illustrates the climate change and gender dimensions that impact funders' programming.

### **Empowered Women Adapting to Drought and Migration in Mexico**

*“The migration of so many men obliged women to leave their homes in search of alternatives to improve their economic situation. One of the most viable solutions was to organize and support each other.”*

— Martha Patricia Alonso Ramirez, founder of Cobanaras Federación Estatal, Mexico

Cobanaras Federación Estatal was founded by women for women in the mid-1990s, when drought and limited job opportunities drove many men to migrate out of the Mexican state of Sonora in search of work in larger metropolitan areas.

Cobanaras is a self-financed, autonomous federation, with programs in micro-finance, livelihood diversification, environment and health, and women's rights, including efforts to fight the epidemic of violence against women.

One example of the organization's work is its support of sustainable agriculture and solid-waste recycling programs designed to create diversified livelihoods for women who need to adapt not only to climate change, but also to crippling health effects caused by agricultural pesticide use.



## Build From Common Values

*“People’s free choice and will is key. We are challenging the instrumentalization of women as caregivers, as having the most to gain and lose and as being naturally connected to nature. It is wrong to train and educate women to be mechanisms for a goal they themselves didn’t decide. For example, expecting women to become environmental leaders—it has to be their decision, their choice within the community.”*

— Tulika Srivastava, president of the South Asia Women’s Fund, India

Supporting work at the intersection of environmental and women’s rights requires the development of effective solutions that truly draw from both perspectives. For example, when focusing on women’s roles within environmental initiatives, funders risk burdening women with the responsibility for solving or addressing climate change. Conversely, by focusing on women’s vulnerability in regards to climate change, funders risk reducing women’s experiences to those of victims. It is imperative that funders do not portray women as heroes or victims, or ignore a deeper analysis of equality, justice and responsibility.

While women in many parts of the world play an important role in managing their communities’ natural resources, they may not have equal rights to these resources or an equal voice in managing them. Some funding strategies simply target women as instruments in achieving donor-driven goals, which might increase women’s work burden. Simultaneously, these funding strategies fail to address women’s rights and access to resources, or amplify women’s roles in decision-making. Although women in less industrialized countries are responding to climate change and trying to find solutions, it is not their responsibility to address climate impacts they largely did not cause.

### Definitions for Grantmakers<sup>15</sup>

**Gender** refers to the roles, responsibilities, rights, relationships and identities that are ascribed to men and women within a given society and context—and how these factors affect and influence each other.

**Gender equality** refers to equal rights, voices, responsibilities and opportunities for men and women in society, at work and in the home.

**Gender-blind** refers to a lack of recognition of the differences between men and women, and the reinforcement of gender inequalities and stereotypes.

**Gender-sensitive** refers to policies or viewpoints that take into account the differences between men and women.

It also means that no attempt is made to reduce gender inequalities.

**Gender-transformative** refers to efforts to create more equitable relationships between men and women, challenge gender and societal roles, and empower excluded people.

#### **Gendered approaches to grantmaking include**

- » Considering specific power dynamics, realities and needs of women, men, girls and boys across various socioeconomic categories, ages and abilities.
- » Strategizing to reduce gender-based inequalities and exclusions.

For detailed definitions and information about gendered approaches to grantmaking, see Appendices A and B.

Women’s funders might describe grants that build on women’s traditional roles in agriculture or as service providers as a “soft entry point” for women’s empowerment. Although such interventions have supported women to mobilize and articulate their rights, they do not always challenge women’s secondary status in societies or address existing power dynamics within families and communities.

Some funders are not as sensitive to the nuances and power dynamics that are at play in the climate crisis. Climate change funding should focus on women’s traditional expertise and also enhance their long-term rights and access to resources.<sup>16</sup>

## Navigating Different Lenses – A Conversation

Environmental and women’s funders do not always have the same programs or strategies, but they often share similar values.

### Right to Environment

“We journeyed to support women from multiple villages who were marching in protest against a polluting industry. As we walked with them, we were approached by a feminist organization who said we were “using the women” for our own purposes. I did not understand this, the women had organized themselves. We felt it was ironic, because the assumption was that women were not operating from their own free will. We have to reach out and talk with the feminist organizations more.”  
— Summit on Women and Climate participant

### Right to Gender Equality

“Our members have encountered projects in the name of clean energy and the environment that go forward without women having any say. For example, a group of women protested the building of a wind farm for alternative local electricity because it was placed on the only parcel of land where they could freely farm as a group. Women were not consulted. There are many such examples.”  
— Researcher for INWF

### Human Rights

“The fundamental issue in all cases is that we have to respect the desires and rights of the people themselves. A project should not come from the “outside,” it should be owned from within, supporting the aims and desires of men and women alike, not just male decision-makers. We cannot support projects in which the voices of women are unknown or not well represented. Human rights is our shared value.” — Summit on Women and Climate participant

Common values identified at the Summit on Women and Climate include:

- » Prioritizing diversity and inclusion.
- » Transforming power dynamics to work toward social justice.
- » Promoting flexibility in grantmaking.
- » Respecting grassroots autonomy.
- » Committing to collaboration and networking.
- » Providing access, opportunities and resources to the underfunded.

Applying these common values to climate change action is key to climate-justice work.

## Get to Know Global Climate Change Policy and Finance

*“It’s important for women’s groups to understand the different political entities involved in climate discussions. Almost always there is an absence of any discussion on women and gender. It’s in women’s groups’ interests to inquire at their ministries as to what funding is coming into the country, whether attention is being paid to gender, and to bring to officials’ attention that there is a lot of good work going on.”*

— Liane Schalatek, associate director of the Heinrich Böll Foundation  
North America, United States

To understand entry points for funding grassroots work, funders must know the basics of wider international climate change policies. They should also be aware of how policy decisions are made and by whom, and how those decisions impact communities. The box below offers critical background on this complex process.

### A Basic Glossary of International Climate Policy Terms

- » The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, formed in 1988, assesses the most recent scientific, technical and socioeconomic climate change information. It relies on the contributions of hundreds of volunteer scientists, and publishes periodic and increasingly alarming reports that inform the Conference of Parties’ deliberations (see Conference of Parties definition below).
- » The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** was negotiated in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. This environmental treaty is the only global climate change policy initiative with broad international support. As of 2014, it had 192 signatories, referred to as “parties.”
- » The **Conference of Parties (COP)** to the convention meets annually to assess progress on UNFCCC policies and to negotiate further agreements. In 1997, COP 3 adopted the **Kyoto Protocol**, which set targets for industrialized countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- » The Kyoto Protocol, which was signed Dec. 11, 1997, and became effective Feb. 16, 2005, established the **Clean Development Mechanism**, whereby an industrialized country can implement an emission-reduction project in a less industrialized country. The implementing country earns credits that can be used for its emissions reductions targets, or traded and monetized in international carbon markets.
- » The **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)** program provides a mechanism for reducing atmospheric carbon by assigning financial value to the carbon stored in forests. REDD was introduced in 2005 by the Coalition of Rainforest Nations, including Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.
- » In UNFCCC talks in 2007, the **Bali Action Plan** introduced the idea of assigning value not just to emissions avoided by curbing deforestation, but also to the conservation and sustainable management of forests. This approach was termed **REDD+** in the 2010 agreement that came out of COP 16 in Cancun, Mexico. REDD/REDD+ projects are now in development throughout the tropics, funded by the **World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility**, the **UN-REDD Programme**, and bilateral agencies and private investors. REDD+ remains controversial, especially for indigenous communities, because it establishes a market value on forests, which can be traded in ways that may threaten rights to territories and consultation processes.





Funders need to be aware of gender dynamics at the community level.  
Photo: Tanzania, Rucha Chitnis / Global Greengrants.

In recent years, the UNFCCC has moved from an almost exclusive focus on large-scale climate change mitigation actions to a more complex, nuanced set of policies that include action on adaptation, loss and rehabilitation. Much of the credit for this shift is due to members of indigenous rights, environmental justice, women's and community-based organizations arguing that the countries responsible for climate change must pay not only to reduce emissions, but also to cover communities' costs in dealing with climate change repercussions.

Since 2010, UNFCCC documents have also incorporated more gender-based language, including:

- » Recognition of women's unique vulnerability to climate change.
- » A commitment to women's effective participation in climate change negotiations, committees and other entities.
- » Calls for the development of gender-responsive policies for climate change funding and programs.
- » Increased education and training to help women become more informed and active participants in climate change responses.<sup>17</sup>

Most recently, in December 2014, the Lima Work Programme on Gender was developed at COP 20 in Peru. The Programme establishes a two-year work plan for promoting gender balance and achieving gender-responsive climate policy.<sup>18</sup>

## UNDERSTAND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCE

Financing for climate change initiatives is extremely complex and largely uncoordinated, with numerous bilateral and multilateral funders that provide resources through multiple channels and programs.<sup>19</sup>

The UNFCCC has several climate finance mechanisms, including the Adaptation Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund (the latter two are administered by the Global



Women often do not have equal rights to resources they are largely responsible for managing. Photo: China, Global Greengrants.

Environment Facility). These funds do not consistently support grassroots women's groups. Although the Adaptation Fund and Global Environment Facility have made some progress on gender equality over the last three years, more work is needed to establish appropriate mechanisms and measurable goals to ensure that a significant percentage of money reaches local, grassroots solutions that serve the interests of women and girls.<sup>20</sup>

In 2010, COP 16 established the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which aims to raise \$100 billion by 2020 for grants and concessional loans for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects. The GCF board is divided equally between industrialized and non-industrialized countries. Unlike previous funds, the GCF is committed to a country-ownership model in which national governments play a key role in setting priorities and overseeing how funds are deployed. GCF plans to channel funds through implementing entities—including nongovernmental organizations—at the national, international and regional levels.

GCF is the first climate fund to establish a gender policy before even beginning operations. However, it is not yet clear how easy it will be for grassroots groups to get GCF financing, because the fund takes a country ownership approach in which a National Designated Authority (usually a government agency) approves fund investments. That authority may or may not seek public participation and involve local stakeholders.

As of 2014, the GCF is in its policy-setting phase. Now is the time to ensure the fund's commitment to both gender equality and support for grassroots groups.<sup>21</sup> Therefore, it is important to encourage—and fund—grassroots women leaders' involvement in the design and governance of national, regional and international implementing agencies, along with other GCF fund-distribution mechanisms.

Large global funders should also consider how to partner with and leverage existing grassroots grantmaking infrastructures. Intermediary organizations have networks and systems in place to rapidly and cost-effectively channel resources to small, local NGOs and community-based groups that otherwise would find it difficult to access GCF funding. In addition, intermediary organizations (such as grantmaking public charities in the U.S. and NGOs around the world that fund partner groups) are well positioned to help connect local groups to resources, expertise and opportunities to become involved in policy deliberations. These organizations are key in helping to ensure that local people have a say in climate changes that affect their lives.



## Examine Your Grant Portfolio

*“Climate funding must be a multidimensional approach that not only takes greenhouse gas emissions into account, but also aspects of social and gender equity, community resilience, and environmental issues such as reducing pollution and preserving biodiversity.”*

— Gotelind Alber, co-founder of GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice, Germany

Both Global Greengrants and the International Network of Women’s Funds found that reviewing their existing grant portfolios with fresh eyes helped them identify ways to better coordinate women’s rights and climate change funding. Funders can adapt their process to examine their own grantmaking programs.

When evaluating projects, environmental and women’s funders can also use the following questions to apply a gender analysis to their grantmaking and develop a better understanding of whether they are supporting women’s rights and gender equality:

- » What is the role of women and men in the grant proposal?
- » How many women are in leadership positions within the organization? How many men?
- » Does the proposal allocate equal resources for men and women’s activities?
- » Which spheres of influence do women and men participate in, and how can this influence shift to affect gender equity?
- » How many men and women participate in decision-making?
- » What will the impact of the project be on male versus female participants?
- » Who will benefit from the project? Who will be disadvantaged?
- » Has the project changed men and women’s attitudes toward equality?
- » What is the capacity of men and women to sustain the interventions, processes and changes?



Small grants can catalyze action. From small seeds grow big trees. Photo: Rucha Chitnis/Global Greengrants.



## Key Questions to Ask About Your Grantmaking

### Women's Funds Incorporating Climate Change

At the community level, do you know:

- » If the situation of women you work with is exacerbated by a changing climate?
- » Whether women's activities contribute to climate change adaptation or mitigation, even if they are not labeled as such?

When designing and implementing women's rights activities:

- » Do you map climate change trends in relation to women's rights issues, and examine how and where to target funds?
- » Are there connections between women's rights activities and the environment or climate change that could create opportunities to deepen your support to a group if you collaborate with another funder?

When examining policies that impact women's rights:

- » Could women contribute to a regional or national dialogue on environment and climate change, and could you support that with grants that help them network or get involved in policy consultations?
- » Are the challenges women face the result of climate change policies (e.g. hydroelectric dams financed by the Clean Development Mechanism, or land pressures or disputes as a result of REDD+), and in what ways do these challenges reinforce or transform gender roles?
- » Are climate-policy decisions made at the local or national level, without women present?

Are you networked with environmental justice activists in your country?

### Environmental Funds Incorporating Women's Rights

At the community level, do you know:

- » How climate change impacts women and men?
- » How access to and ownership of resources varies between men and women?
- » How decisions are made in the community?
- » Whether women are represented in formal and informal organizations, and if they have groups or organizations of their own?

When designing and implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation activities:

- » Have the needs and priorities of women been voiced, heard and acted upon?
- » Are women's contributions recognized and valued, including payment for their labor?

When addressing the adverse impacts of climate change policy:

- » Do you know how this policy affects women?
- » Does your analysis include monetary and non-monetary aspects, and are women receiving equitable benefits and compensation?
- » Are women present in local and national decision-making activities?

Are you networked with women's rights activists in your country?

For additional resources about developing gendered strategies within your grantmaking, see Appendix D: Additional Resources – Gender, Environment and Climate Change.



## Actively Seek Partnerships with Organizations that Complement Your Strengths

*“We have found that our collaboration with a women’s fund has provided increased funding opportunities for both our grantees and the fund’s grantees, and access to a wider range of information and ideas.”*

— Artemisa Castro, executive director of the Solidarity in Action Fund, Mexico

The Summit on Women and Climate demonstrated that grantmakers share expertise, practical experience and common ground despite different specialties and backgrounds. Most important, funders may already work with grassroots women leaders who have tremendous capacity and potential, and who mobilize people and community resources to address poverty, environmental degradation, human rights and climate change. By connecting with each other and examining their grantmaking from multiple perspectives, funders will deepen and broaden the support they provide women-led climate change efforts.

The table below illustrates collaborations between environmental and women’s funders that were proposed as a result of the Summit on Women and Climate. By working together, these funders can provide more informed, effective and robust support to women’s climate initiatives.

### Potential Collaborations Seeded at the Summit on Women and Climate

Theme	Location	Organization
Regional grassroots network on energy and climate change	Russia, China, Mongolia	Global Greengrants, the Mongolian Women’s Fund
Regional collaboration and identification of pressing environmental and women’s rights issues and needs	South America	ELAS Social Investment Fund, Global Greengrants, South American Women’s Fund, Urgent Action Fund
Identification of and collaboration on grants that build women’s voices on environment and climate change	India, Nepal	Global Greengrants, South Asia Women’s Fund, Tewa
Mapping and responding to threats women human rights’ defenders face when working on environmental justice	Indonesia, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Philippines	Samdhana Institute, Urgent Action Fund, Vietnam Rivers Network

See Appendix D for a list of other organizations working at the intersection of women’s rights and climate change and other environmental issues.

# Areas to Fund Grassroots Women's Climate Actions

Women all over the globe are developing effective grassroots responses to climate change impacts on their communities. They are also increasingly adjusting to climate change policies. The following section highlights case studies that illustrate effective women's climate change initiatives and details key areas of entry to fund at the intersection of climate justice and women's rights.

These case studies, which were shared by grassroots women leaders at the Summit on Women and Climate, describe eight areas where targeted, well-timed grants can support local women's responses to climate change:

- » Climate change-induced migration and territory loss
- » Deforestation by extractive industries
- » Hydroelectric power
- » REDD+ climate change policy
- » Solid-waste management
- » Urban industrial emissions
- » Violence against women activists
- » Women's health and livelihoods



Women in forest communities are networking to save their environments and cultures. Photo: Ecuador, Global Greengrants.



# Climate Change— Induced Migration and Territory Loss

*“We got the elders and chiefs from the mainland to live on our island for more than two weeks. They experienced our hardships and saw how we lived. They had to eat the fish we ate and drink the coconut water and sleep in our hammocks. Then they understood.”*

Ursula Rakova, executive director  
of Tulele Peisa, Papua New Guinea

A photograph of a person standing in shallow ocean waves, holding a white object. The person is seen from behind, standing in the surf. The waves are breaking around them, creating white foam. The background shows the ocean stretching to the horizon under a clear sky.

Rising seas threaten cultures and livelihoods. Photo: Papua New Guinea, Global Greengrants.

In 2008 alone, 20 million people were displaced by extreme weather events; in 2012, the number ballooned to 32 million. These figures do not take into account the potential impact that climate change will have on sea levels and the people living in coastal and island communities. As many as 1 billion people worldwide live within 20 meters of the current mean sea level, and many of these people are concentrated in cities.<sup>22</sup>

Climate change—related flooding and other extreme weather events not only cost lives, but also destroy livelihoods, houses and infrastructure, and community and family networks. This destruction creates social conflict due to scarcity of resources. And fewer resources lead to migration—either by select household members (most often men), families or entire communities.

As the global climate rapidly changes, governments have been slow to respond, leaving affected communities to fend for themselves. While many countries have invested in disaster-management plans and policies of varying robustness and gender sensitivity, few, if any, have developed laws or policies that address climate change—induced migration or territory loss. Nor have they sorted out what types of support voluntary migrants—those who leave in response to diminishing livelihoods—should receive versus those who are ultimately forced out by an acute emergency. Even fewer have identified support for those who cannot or chose not to migrate or relocate.



**Illustrative Case: Tulele Peisa**  
**Woman Leader: Ursula Rakova**  
**Location: Carteret Islands, Papua New Guinea**

About three decades ago, rising seas split one of the six small islands in Papua New Guinea's Carteret atoll in two. As a result, salt water has encroached on agricultural land, disrupting cultivation and leaving pools of standing water that breed mosquitoes. Despite the islanders' appeals, the government has provided only limited, episodic and inappropriate food aid. But even that small level of assistance created a culture of dependency.

Knowing that they had to take matters into their own hands, some of the islanders founded the community organization Tulele Peisa in 2006. The following year, Ursula Rakova, a community leader in this matrilineal society, solicited a small grant of \$6,700 from Global Greengrants to develop an 18-step resettlement plan that paid close attention to the socio-cultural structure of the village and what it would need to relocate. Then she set out to put the plan into action.

Ursula invited elders and chiefs from the mainland of Bougainville to come see the situation on the island firsthand. The shocked elders spoke with the Catholic bishop on the mainland, and the Carteret islanders won permission to settle on four parcels of land held by the Catholic Church.

Beginning in 2009, seven island families consisting of 86 people moved to mainland Bougainville. Although the move to the mainland was painful and disruptive, the migrants were fortunate to relocate to an area where they not only gained access to good land, but were also able to preserve their ethnic identity, culture and traditions.

But Tulele Peisa has encountered major roadblocks in fundraising to build durable, comfortable housing for these families. So the displaced islanders decided to use three of the four parcels of church land to grow cacao they could monetize by exporting, and to grow food to send back to the 2,000 people still living on the atoll.

Ursula and Tulele Peisa have received small- and medium-sized grants from various organizations, but she notes that these short-term relationships do not adequately support the enormous task of building a sustainable community. In addition, the grants often require labor-intensive reporting, making them too burdensome and inflexible for people involved in the extensive and messy work of relocation. Her best experiences are with grantmakers that give flexible, responsive grants, visit in person and take a personal and long-term interest in the Carteret islanders' struggle, and approach the community with trust and support.

## LESSONS FROM THIS CASE:

- » Ursula assumed responsibility for her new community in Bougainville and for those remaining on the Carteret atoll. Because of her visible role in addressing the needs of her people, the government of Papua New Guinea invited her on a speaking tour to raise money for climate change adaptation. However, none of that money trickled down to the community level.
- » Resourceful community leaders sometimes can, but should not have to, take the lead in finding solutions because of lack of government support.

- » When communities are already in crisis, grant-application processes and reporting requirements should not be burdensome. Community leaders should be engaging primarily with the community, not with external donors.
- » Preserving cultural integrity is as important as physical and economic security.

## BROADER LESSONS:

- » Rising sea levels are a gradual disaster that does not garner headlines or trigger urgent action. But it is far more cost-effective to respond early rather than wait for a crisis.
- » When women's rights to land and resources are already curtailed, climate change will further magnify these injustices.
- » Communities need to be supported in their decision-making, especially as they consider options for their most vulnerable members—women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities.
- » Women feel the impacts of relocation in all realms of their lives—productive, reproductive and community. Recreating a home and fostering community when pulled up by the roots are especially challenging.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- » Small- to mid-sized grants can help communities facing the tough realities of climate change-induced migration to:
  - Hold discussions that include women's perspectives. These discussions are critical in helping communities understand and confront climate change and explore different coping strategies.
  - Fund delegations that include women to engage with government authorities, scope out resettlement options and create exchanges with other affected communities.
  - Educate local authorities about climate-induced migration, its gender dimensions, the range of policy responses and possible sources of funding.
  - Fund relocation strategies, including money to buy land or build housing. Although this type of grant is outside the reach of small grantmakers, they can help local organizations access larger pots of money through networking and sharing information about their case.
  - Support adaptive livelihood strategies pre- and post-relocation.
- » Funders can also learn from women's (particularly local or indigenous women's) understanding and observations.

See Appendix D for additional resources on Climate Change-Induced Migration and Territory Loss.



# Deforestation by Extractive Industries

*“If we cut down the forest, it is like leaving women naked. The Earth is our flesh, the rock is our bone, the water is our blood and the forest our hair. When these are lost, we don’t have the strength to defend our way of life.”*

Mama Aleta Baun,  
founder of Pokja OAT, Indonesia



Forest preservation is a climate-mitigating tactic.  
Photo: Indonesia, Goldman Environmental Prize.

People who live near forests, or depend on them for their physical, economic or spiritual well-being, are under assault by the expansion of mining and drilling. These extractive industries are major contributors to greenhouse gases and forest destruction—not only because of the hydrocarbons they unearth, but also because of the destructiveness of the extraction process itself. Industrial mining techniques like mountaintop removal, in particular, devastate carbon-storing landscapes. Mining and drilling almost always necessitate new roads with spin-off impacts, such as increased illegal logging, new homesteading and clear-cutting for livestock. These activities also require a large, male-dominated and often transient workforce, which can degrade the social and cultural fabric of host communities.

An increasing number of women are connecting with other forest communities to save their environments, livelihoods and cultures. Grassroots funders have a unique role in supporting these women’s efforts, which often go unrecognized and underfunded. Small and mid-sized grants can help secure these women activists’ safety, and connect them to wider debates and forest policy discussions.



**Illustrative Case: Pokja OAT**  
**Woman Leader: Mama Aleta Baun**  
**Location: West Timor, Indonesia**

In 1996, two marble mining-companies came to Aleta Baun's village in West Timor and began to explore Bukit Naususu, the area's most sacred mountain. Local tribes were concerned because mining potentially threatened 16,000 hectares of forest, where women foraged for food, dyes and medicine. With the help of three other people, Aleta—affectionately known as “Mama” Aleta—began to organize protests against the mining exploration, eventually gaining support from the tribe's elder council. This opposition caused investors to leave in 1997. But when the mining companies returned under a different name the next year, Mama Aleta and other community members, formed an indigenous local organization, Pokja OAT, to expand the opposition's capacity.

In 2006, Mama Aleta and anti-mining activists mobilized the local Amanuban and Amanatun tribes to protest the mining activities, which resulted in the withdrawal of all mining companies from the East Nusa Tenggara region in 2007. But by 2008, new mining companies had entered different parts of the forest, and the conflict intensified. Indigenous leaders were arrested and beaten, including Mama Aleta, who also received death threats.

In 2009, thanks to a small grant from the Samdhana Institute, Pokja OAT held a regional assembly. Three local tribes attended and joined together to form a renewed front against mining interests. They decided that women should be at the forefront of the protests and consequently, 150 women occupied a local mining site for a year. They sat at the site every day, weaving their traditional cloth in protest while men brought them food and took over other domestic duties.

In 2010, the mining companies abandoned four mines in this district. But the pressure on indigenous forests remains. Pokja OAT is now mapping all 130 villages in the territory and using legal and parliamentary avenues to create a stronger legal claim to tribal forests. For her sustained efforts in defense of the environment, Mama Aleta won the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2013.

## LESSONS FROM THIS CASE:

- » Women-led, non-violent action is an effective way to resist mining activities, but individual women may be put at risk of physical violence and intimidation.
- » Even though women actually conducted the 2009 protest, a strategy should be agreed upon collectively, with both men and woman accepting clearly defined, nontraditional roles to protect the forests.
- » Small grants, such as the one that funded Pokja OAT's first regional assembly, make critical strategic contributions. The funding approach respected Pokja OAT's autonomy and realities, and the grants were simple, fast and responsive.
- » Other support besides funding—such as advice, networking and promotion—increases the visibility of the cause and attracts more resources and allies.





## BROADER LESSONS:

- » Women mobilize other women to action through informal groups, which may not be registered entities or have a typical organizational infrastructure. Grantmakers with strong community connections and knowledge of the local/national legal context must work flexibly with women's groups to channel funding in early stages of their efforts.
- » In most cases, these groups face long-term struggles against companies aggressively pursuing economic interests.
- » Grassroots community groups need reliable partners that respect their autonomy and agendas, and funders who can provide flexible, timely and appropriate funding.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- » Forest communities are often capable of mobilizing their own resources for resistance efforts, but they may need supplemental support to cover:
  - Travel costs to help different communities meet and organize, or to support delegations that visit government offices or company headquarters to protest, engage or negotiate.
  - Training in environmental impact monitoring, advocacy and negotiation.
  - Networking for isolated communities and leaders, especially women, to form and foster broader movements that increase pressure on authorities.
  - Technical services such as legal advice and GPS mapping.
- » Urgent-response funds for risk management or emergency actions, if women leaders are threatened or physically attacked.

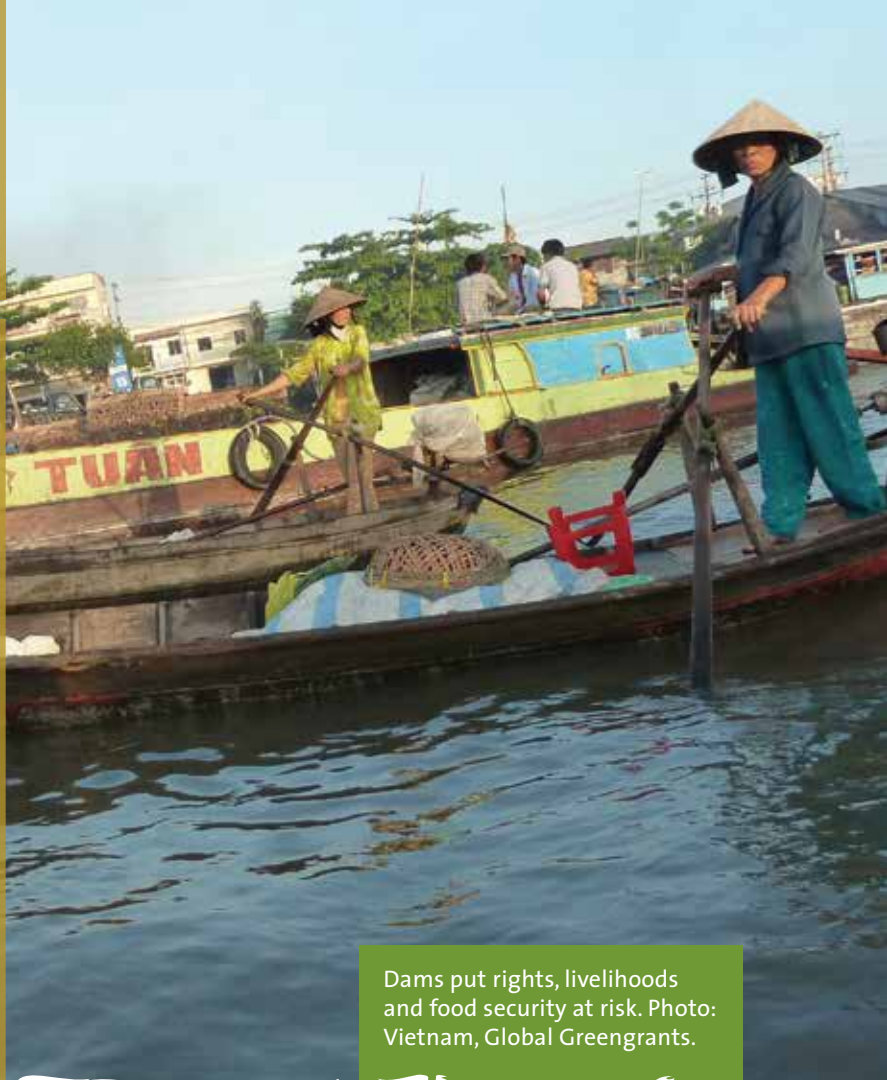
See Appendix D for additional resources on Deforestation by Extractive Industries.



# Hydroelectric Power

*“When I started my dam work, many government people rejected me immediately. I understood why—maybe they didn’t have time or they weren’t committed to going to the communities. But we in civil society have time, we have seen the impacts and we can document them.”*

Lam Thi Thu Suu, coordinator of the Vietnam Rivers Network and director of the Centre for Social Research and Development, Vietnam



Dams put rights, livelihoods and food security at risk. Photo: Vietnam, Global Greengrants.

Hydroelectric projects have been touted as a major source of clean energy, even though they generate significant greenhouse gases—primarily methane and carbon dioxide. Methane from dams is responsible for nearly 4 percent of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>23</sup> Building dams to create and distribute hydroelectric power is also very energy-intensive, which equates to much higher net greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, dams disrupt ecosystems, lead to mercury and sediment accumulation, create algae blooms and fish die-off and displace communities.

Dam building has proliferated, with official financing from multilateral banks, regional development banks and the private sector—some under the guise of the Clean Development Mechanism.<sup>24</sup> From 2010 to 2035, hydropower generation is projected to increase by two-thirds, with dams in China expected to account for a quarter of that growth over the next five years.<sup>25</sup>

Private investors play a growing role in hydropower development, but they are less constrained by safeguards and requirements, such as open community discussions and social impact monitoring. Although governments may rubber stamp dams, private investors’ environmental impact assessments are often scientifically weak and fail to consider gender.

Dams often create or exaggerate gender disparities through flawed resettlement processes, compensation packages that are nearly always funneled through male heads of households, and the absence of gender analyses in assessing social and economic impacts or in designing resettlement plans.<sup>26</sup> Displacement due to dam building can have severe implications for women’s already restricted mobility. Consequently, women’s protests against dams often highlight the need for gender equity. They also often question conventional notions of costs, benefits and loss.



## **Illustrative Case: Vietnam Rivers Network (VRN)**

### **Woman Leader: Lam Thi Thu Suu**

### **Location: Hue, Vietnam**

Massive and ongoing investment in so-called sustainable hydropower in the Mekong River system presents a major threat to riparian communities in China, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. As of 2014, there were 82 dams along this river, and another 363 dams were under construction.

Local residents are usually not consulted about dam projects, although the construction directly affects their livelihoods. Women community leaders such as Lam Thi Thu Suu are working to right this injustice with small funds from organizations such as Both ENDS in the Netherlands. Suu works with communities to document dams' impact on downstream populations, which includes separately analyzing women's situations. She also trains agricultural cooperatives, fisherfolk associations and women's unions to effectively talk with government representatives, dam operators and the media.

Suu and the VRN's member organizations have worked patiently for years to publicize dams' negative impact and build the awareness and trust of government officials. The organizations are gradually seeing a shift in public opinion and government attitudes. For instance, after the VRN, local governments and the national park authority challenged the quality of the environmental impact assessments for two proposed dams on the Mekong, the government revoked both dams' approval.

Global Greengrants has made numerous grants to help local groups like the VRN raise awareness of and respond to hydropower threats. In 2013, it funded a gathering of community leaders, many of them women, from seven provinces in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam to share different communities' research on hydropower development impacts. At the workshop, these leaders also forged connections to help develop a stronger movement to resist dams in Southeast Asia.

## **LESSONS FROM THIS CASE:**

- » Multiple dams are often planned for the same river basin, and impacts are felt over large distances, so it is important to connect upstream and downstream communities.
- » Funders should build on existing community structures—fisherfolk associations, farmer associations, indigenous organizations and women's groups—to help promote women's voices and leadership.
- » Participation of locally impacted women is fundamentally important, and small grants have been a primary mechanism for ensuring that women's voices are heard.
- » Sound documentation, patience and persistence in educating decision-makers and the public can eventually change public and official opinion.

## **BROADER LESSONS:**

- » Because highly influential financial interests are often involved in hydroelectric initiatives, there can be extreme power differentials between dam proponents and dam-affected communities. Therefore, it is necessary to connect and mobilize the full range of stakeholders, including upstream and downstream communities, local governments, conservation organizations, and other civil-society groups.

- » Climate change offers a key platform for women adversely affected by large dams to raise their concerns about the social and environmental impacts of hydroelectric energy development.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- » Grantmakers can invest in groups and projects that question the overbuilding of dams. Funding can be used to:
  - Provide technical expertise to challenge environmental impact assessments for hydroelectric dams, along with technical support for calculating dam costs and benefits—including non-monetized activities such as foraging and subsistence farming that are typically carried out by women.
  - Train community members to document the impacts of a proposed or existing dam, including current and future resource access and use, broken down by gender.
  - Develop women's negotiating and advocacy skills.
  - Offer workshops and travel to organize riparian communities around dam construction and amplify women's voices.
  - Help women improve livelihood and resource-management strategies that help them adapt to dam-affected ecosystems or adjust to resettlement.
  - Train women to interact with the media and develop communication strategies that highlight dams' gender-differentiated impacts.
  - Provide risk-management tools for women activists.

See Appendix D for additional resources on Hydroelectric Power.



# REDD+ Climate Change Policy

*“In forest areas, gender is often forgotten. Girls and mothers who live in forest areas do not benefit from opportunities and lack information—it’s a kind of economic injustice. Training on forest policy is necessary, because the women who have mastered this topic aren’t numerous.”*

Member of the Organization for the Development of Human Rights in Congo, Republic of the Congo



Forest degradation has major impacts on indigenous women.  
Photo: Mexico, public domain.

In theory, REDD+ (an international emissions-reduction mechanism described on page 12) provides a viable economic alternative to forest destruction and encourages responsible forest management. But some people believe REDD+ is a false solution to climate change and that it fails to protect local peoples’ rights to forests.

REDD+ critics argue that the policy does not reduce emissions at the source. Instead, it allows industries to offset pollution they create in one location with carbon credits from forest preservation or restoration elsewhere. Critics also believe that the creation of carbon markets under REDD has set off a scramble for land and financing that favors well-connected capitalists over local people. These communities do not benefit directly from REDD financing, and end up losing access to their traditional lands.

REDD+ planning processes tend to be dominated by male scientists, academics and policymakers, leaving out critical stakeholders who own, manage and protect forests (many of whom are women). Pressure is mounting to ensure that future REDD+ planning discussions include women, which many people believe will help establish better outcomes. While the science and economics of REDD+ policy can be daunting, representatives from environmental and women’s groups should hold policymakers accountable for transparent, consultative REDD+ processes.

## **Illustrative Case:** Organization for the Development of Human Rights in Congo (ODDHC)

**Woman Leader:** Indigenous women of the Niara region

**Location:** Republic of the Congo

The Congolese government has engaged in various international processes to address climate change, including REDD+. REDD+ decisions at the national level will affect indigenous women in the Niari region of the Congo, who farm and collect forest products. Restricting forest access would require Niari communities to find alternative livelihoods. At the same time, the Niari should have opportunities to participate in, and benefit from, responsible forest-management practices that would result in REDD+ payments.

Although REDD+ requires civil-society consultation, the Congolese government's failure to conduct an adequate consultation resulted in international partners rejecting the first draft plan in 2010. Women's voices or gender considerations were notably absent in the discussions of the draft plan.

In a second round of negotiations, carried out in 2011, an ad hoc civil society committee was established to develop consensus among community organizations so they could present a strong, unified message to the Congolese government about participation in the REDD+ scheme. Of the 15 organizations that made up the ad hoc committee, ODDHC was the only women's group, thanks to rapid support from Urgent Action Fund Africa.

A small grant from UAF Africa allowed ODDHC members to teach Niari indigenous women about REDD+ policy and mechanisms, the negative effects of forest degradation, and the consultation process. The ultimate goal was to ensure that these women's voices and interests were incorporated into government policy. The project had three phases: mapping out the activities of women and women's groups in the Niari forests, organizing a workshop for participants to review the plan and solicit their input, and actively advocating for those interests within the ad hoc civil society committee.

As a result of this training, the consensus document from the ad hoc committee reflected the importance of the Niari women's contributions to conserving forests and improving livelihoods.

### **LESSONS FROM THIS CASE:**

- » Women from the Niari region are directly impacted by policy decisions and have the right to be included in deliberations, but they were not initially provided information about key processes that affect their lives, the policies under consideration or ways to influence decisions.
- » Even with formal provisions for civil-society engagement, women's interests and organizations were not included in the government's consultation strategy.
- » With modest support, the women were able to gain critical knowledge about policy processes, and thus could identify and articulate their interests during policy discussions.

### **BROADER LESSONS:**

- » Women need support so they can begin to feel empowered in policy negotiations in which they are often brought in late to the process, and where they face substantial power, education and economic differences.



- » Funders need to be aware of gender dynamics at the community level, and whether women's views are part of community deliberations.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- » Help women understand the links between their livelihoods and climate change, and motivate them to engage in climate change-policy discussions. Funders can support this by:
  - Recognizing that participation does not automatically mean influence, so funding for follow-up and monitoring is essential.
  - Helping larger, more connected NGOs reach out to local women leaders and groups to involve them in national policy consultations.

See Appendix D for additional resources on REDD+ Climate Change Policy.

Women need support in policy negotiations, in which they may face power differences. Photo: Congo, Francish 7/CC BY-SA.





# Solid-Waste Management

*“Women now feel useful; they can support their husbands and work to clean the green areas, the lagoon and the streets ... everywhere it is clean, clean, clean.”*

Cendela Lopez, leader of Miskitu Indian Mairin Asla Takanka, Honduras



Trash picking and recycling offer reliable incomes and security. Photo: Alison Picher / Global Greengrants.

At first glance, grassroots environmental efforts like solid-waste management may seem too small-scale to have a significant impact on global climate change. But improved management and recycling of solid waste actually reduces global greenhouse emissions in several ways. Recycling substantially lowers landfill emissions because less trash gets incinerated.<sup>27</sup> Recycled materials also reduce demand for new resources, and lower the cradle-to-grave emissions of processing goods.

At the community level, improperly managed solid waste and incineration can contaminate water and create air pollution that impacts residents' health—especially the health of pregnant women, children and the elderly.

Women's groups in many parts of the world are leading solid-waste management efforts, cleaning up their communities and generating income for their members through recycling programs. These unseen environmental entrepreneurs play a key role in climate change mitigation.



**Illustrative Case: Miskitu Indian Mairin Asla Takanka (MIMAT)**  
**Woman Leader: Cendela Lopez**  
**Location: Puerto Lempira, Honduras**

In the Caribbean city of Puerto Lempira in the Moskitia region of Honduras, Cendela Lopez, an indigenous Miskita woman, noticed that climate change has had quantifiable impacts in her community. More frequent rains affect women's ability to know when to plant crops, which reduces the amount of food available for the community. Compounding the problem, the overharvesting of lobster to satisfy the U.S. market undermines Miskito men's livelihoods as lobster divers. Demand has depleted stocks and forced men to take more risks, increasing the dangers of diving.

To help support her community both financially and environmentally, in 2003 Cendela organized single women, widows and the wives of disabled divers into MIMAT. This grassroots organization collects and recycles the glass, plastic, aluminum and other solid waste that has long littered the Moskitia region.

With a small grant in 2003 from the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme of the United Nations Development Programme, MIMAT members removed and recycled trash from the town of Puerto Lempira, the Laguna Karataska and surrounding wetlands. They used other small grants from Global Greengrants to expand their activities to mangrove and watershed reforestation.

Today, MIMAT is largely self-financed. It has gradually expanded to four additional towns and employs 60 women, mostly on a part-time basis, through municipal contracts for waste removal. Other MIMAT members are developing small-scale economic activities around ecotourism or reforestation with fruit-bearing trees.

MIMAT has also implemented regional education programs on climate change and environmental issues. As a result, solid waste in the region has been reduced by 2,400 cubic meters (more than 25,800 cubic feet) per year.

In addition, MIMAT's cleanup of the coastal zone and reforestation activities have lowered greenhouse gas emissions, helped replenish fish stocks in the lagoon and reduced insect-borne illnesses among the 12,000 inhabitants of participating towns. And in 2008, funds provided by Global Greengrants allowed MIMAT to assist rural indigenous women in developing seed banks, which helped them resume farming in the wake of the destruction of Hurricane Felix.

The women of MIMAT are gaining recognition as thought leaders on climate change in Honduras, and have increased the voice and influence of women in their territory.

## LESSONS FROM THIS CASE:

- » Women's status in their households and communities improved because of their economic empowerment and because they self-organized to address community issues.
- » Small grants were crucial to launch the recycling business, and continue give MIMAT the latitude to evolve in new directions.
- » Women's interests are now much better represented in the Miskito community as a result of the influence MIMAT has gained with local political authorities and the Miskito indigenous federation.
- » While MIMAT is now largely self-financed, it needs small grants to reach additional communities, continue education activities, and expand climate change-mitigation and adaptation efforts in this highly climate-vulnerable region.

## BROADER LESSONS:

- » Even small-scale waste reduction and recycling efforts can have multiple benefits, including greenhouse-gas reduction, fish-habitat restoration and the lessening of mosquito-borne disease. Women also see improvements in their productive (income generation), reproductive (better maternal and child health) and community (safer environment, restored natural resources) roles.
- » This kind of project helps the most vulnerable. Women and children often work as trash pickers along roadsides or in large landfills. Adding value and structure to their work can improve their economic situation and social position.
- » Community-led waste-reduction programs that grow incrementally are likely to be embraced by the entire community and become more sustainable.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- » Women's independence and autonomy is reinforced when they can self-fund their organizations' core operations through income-generating activities. They can use small grants to cover complementary work such as:
  - Gender-responsive community mapping, planning and organizing.
  - Engagement with local authorities (preparation, travel, meetings/workshops).
  - Community education on waste management and other climate change mitigation strategies.
  - Start-up funds to pilot waste-disposal methods and secure recycling sites and basic equipment.
  - Training in basic business planning.
  - Other mitigation and adaptation efforts, such as mangrove restoration.

See Appendix D for additional resources on Solid-Waste Management.



# Urban Industrial Emissions

*“I am very passionate about women’s issues, and how we can link our daily lives to climate change and to be part of decision-making using a language we understand as women. But most feminist funders are not supporting young women here, and aren’t very interested in the issues we deal with. So we invite feminist funders to hear what these women are saying. I think we’ve gained more funders’ support since we’ve done that.”*

Caroline Npaotane, co-coordinator of the Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance, South Africa



Industrial pollution is an environmental health crisis. Photo: South Africa, Global Greengrants.

As of 2014, one-third of global carbon dioxide emissions comes from the coal that is burned to produce 40 percent of the world’s power—and the industry continues to expand.<sup>28</sup> Women are often the first to recognize how industrial emissions impact their families and communities, particularly when their own children suffer from pollution-related illnesses such as asthma. Consequently, women are at the forefront of air pollution reduction campaigns throughout the world.



**Illustrative Case: Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA)**  
**Woman Leader: Caroline Npaotane**  
**Location: South Africa**

The area south of Johannesburg, South Africa, known as the Vaal Triangle, is the site of some of the highest carbon-emitting industries in the world. In the city of Sasolburg, the Sasol 1 oil refinery—a coal-to-liquid facility using technology from the 1940s—releases the highest concentration of volatile organic compounds in South Africa. Its sister facility in Secunda is considered the largest single-point source of greenhouse gas pollution on Earth.<sup>29</sup> Meanwhile, South Africa’s state-owned, coal-based electricity utility, Eskom, has multiple power plants in the Vaal and is using World Bank investment to massively expand its capacity.

For the past 15 years, a growing group of South African activists has been a driving force behind efforts to curb pollution and fight the impunity of the polluting industries. Caroline Npaotane is a leader in this movement. Spurred to action by her daughter’s respiratory disease, Caroline has helped educate and mobilize communities throughout the Vaal Triangle to monitor pollution levels and demand that attention be paid to the health problems created by the toxic environmental conditions.

Supported by periodic small grants from Global Greengrants and other funders, Caroline’s and VEJA’s work was key in persuading the government to pass a new air-quality standards law for South Africa in 2004, and in getting the Vaal named an environmental priority area for climate change mitigation in 2005. Under the new law, Sasol and Eskom were given until 2015 to curb emissions and clean up their carbon footprint. As the date draws near, Sasol has sued the government for exemption from the law, and Eskom is rushing to expand coal operations in the Vaal despite the zone’s official priority area status.

VEJA is opposing industrial emissions through community monitoring and mobilization, legal avenues and parliamentary debate, along with raising public awareness about the need for environmental reform in the Vaal Triangle and throughout South Africa.

## LESSONS FROM THIS CASE:

- » Grassroots groups working in zones most affected by pollution are the most dedicated advocates for environmental justice. Their activism helps move forward pollution regulation and is a key driver for reducing greenhouse emissions.
- » Small grants that increase in frequency and size as these grassroots coalitions take root can make a huge difference in monitoring and maintaining scrutiny of the biggest pollution emitters.
- » Regional, national and international networking is critical to discovering and mentoring young women environmental leaders.
- » Polluting companies often try to undercut environmental efforts, claiming that reduced emissions will cost jobs. When parents understand pollution’s detrimental health impacts, they are more likely to demand that the companies do more to protect their families’ health.





Women are often the first to recognize pollution's negative impacts Photo: South Africa, Thys Dullaart.

## BROADER LESSONS:

- » Because of high rates of illiteracy and unemployment for women in polluted urban areas, grantmakers interested in climate change and environmental justice need to focus on reaching women in pollution-intensive urban and suburban zones.
- » Companies will protect their interests; funders need to support organizations that are able to create a common cause among different stakeholders to reduce pollution.
- » For many grassroots women, a point of entry into action on climate change is air quality and its effects on human health.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- » Women who are fighting large, influential polluters in urban areas need financial and nonfinancial assistance. Funders can support urban activists through grants to:
  - Travel and other expenses for meetings and exchanges between women in urban pollution-affected communities.
  - Studies that document pollution's health impacts and/or its contribution to climate change.
  - Media training and outreach to publicize study results.
  - Legal and policy advocacy efforts.

See Appendix D for additional resources on Urban Industrial Emissions.



# Violence Against Women Activists

*“In my case, I’m recognized, so at least I have a bit of notoriety that provides a measure of protection. But what about my other colleagues? That’s why we’ve created a network for defending human rights defenders.”*

Berta Cáceres, general coordinator for the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras, Honduras



Know if your support alleviates or heightens risk. Photo: India, Rucha Chitnis / Global Greengrants.

According to the Urgent Action Fund for Women’s Human Rights (UAF), female activists often face sexual assault, threats of violence, stigmatization, deregistration of their organizations, isolation from decision-making processes, threats to their jobs and legal actions.

Local and national legal systems often fail to protect female activists. A culture of impunity surrounds violence against women. Despite the risks, women increasingly defend the resources they depend upon for their livelihoods. But they pay a high price for this type of leadership. In 2012, approximately 40 percent of women human rights defenders targeted and attacked in Mesoamerica for their activism were defending natural resources.<sup>30</sup>

Grassroots funders have a variety of tools to help support women activists who face violence. The UAF, for instance, specializes in providing rapid-response grants to women who face threats. It accepts applications in any language online, by text or through mobile applications, and provides an answer in 72 hours. The fund also supports longer-term advocacy and alliance-building strategies to create a safer environment for women activists.



## **Illustrative Case: Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH)**

**Woman Leader:** Berta Cáceres

**Location:** Honduras

Since it was founded in the 1990s, COPINH has successfully fought logging and mining companies in the Lenca Indians' territory in Honduras. Currently, COPINH is resisting the Agua Zarca Hydroelectric Project that is financed as part of a renewable energy bid with full backing by the Honduran government.

As COPINH's general coordinator, much of Berta Cáceres' work involves confronting governmental patriarchy, the military and corporations that want to exploit Lenca territory. But the male-dominated government has become increasingly adversarial toward activists. Berta has been stopped and questioned frequently by police, arrested numerous times and put on trial for her political work. Some of her colleagues have even been killed or seriously injured.

Frequent support and funding from the Urgent Action Fund for Women's Rights and other human rights' funds has helped Berta and COPINH withstand the constant threats. COPINH has also created its own network for aiding human rights defenders, using information and lessons that members gathered from communities in Guatemala, Colombia and El Salvador.

### **LESSONS FROM THIS CASE:**

- » Because challenges to government policies and corporate practices are also often challenges to male power and dominance, women's activism can frequently trigger violence against and harassment of individual women.
- » Leading activist organizations can make women targets, but visibility can also provide some measure of protection. However, visibility does not necessarily help women cope with the stress of living under the daily threat of violence.
- » Vigilance by funders and other social-justice organizations, along with willingness to mobilize for urgent actions, are crucial forms of nonfinancial support.
- » Because fear isolates, it is critical to facilitate and fund connections between women activists so they can strategize and provide moral, emotional and practical support to each other.

### **BROADER LESSONS:**

- » Activists may overextend themselves not only around the issues they work on (including tolerating high levels of risk), but also as mothers, wives and daughters. Know whether your support contributes to even more overextension and risk-taking or helps alleviate it.
- » Beyond episodic and case-by-case actions, funders need to systematically analyze violence against women and work to address institutions that orchestrate, condone or endorse violence against environmental and women's rights activists. This becomes particularly important as the space for civil discourse erodes in many countries—a trend that increases the threat of violence.





Challenges to corporate practice are often also challenges to male power. Photo: Nigeria, Global Greengrants.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- » Women activists may choose to put themselves on the front lines—and that choice should be respected—but funders need to assess their own role to make sure women are as safe as possible. They can:
  - Help organizations develop security plans, an urgent-alert system and safe houses.
  - Invest in cell phones, video cameras and other communication tools, and a media strategy to constantly monitor and document the security of at-risk staff and keep their situations in the public eye.
  - Actively engage with and strengthen the networks of organizations that support human rights defenders.

See Appendix D for additional resources on Violence Against Women Activists.



# Women's Health and Livelihoods

*“It’s not just that the environment affects women, but also women need help to make changes in the environment. Most of our grants in rural areas go to empower local women activists. They decide which issues they want to address. Environment is one of these issues. Things like illegal mining, desertification and farming are part of everyday life for rural women.”*

Bolor Legjeem, communications director of the Mongolian Women's Fund, Mongolia



Contamination of farmland damages women's health and livelihoods. Photo: Nepal, Brucelee / CC BY-SA 2.0.

Women in non-industrialized countries play key roles as food producers and caregivers. Many depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. So extreme climate-related droughts, flooding and other disasters disproportionately impact women's health, food security and livelihoods.

In places where mining and extractive industries produce greenhouse gases and associated chemicals that cause severe environmental problems, women often bear an unequal share of social, economic and environmental risk. Contamination of fertile farmland destroys their livelihoods and forces many women into prostitution; mining communities tend to have higher numbers of sex workers. Mining pollution also threatens women's reproductive health, resulting in higher rates of miscarriage and children born with abnormalities.

Rural women's health and livelihoods, which are directly affected by the quality of their environment, can be entry points for grassroots funders to help communities understand women's rights and the impact environmental degradation, including climate change, has on their lives. These areas also present rich opportunities to fund women's participation in decision-making processes related to health and economic livelihoods.



## **Illustrative Case: Mongolian Women's Fund (MONES)**

**Woman Leader:** M. Dulamjav

**Location:** Zavkhan, Mongolia

Mongolia is home to one of the world's largest mineral reserves. Over the past two decades, though, mining activities in Mongolia have marred the country with corruption, inequity and environmental destruction. International investors have pursued mining in Mongolia with impunity, illegally extracting valuable minerals and paying workers dismally low wages to work in unsafe conditions. In addition to ignoring workers' basic human rights, mining and drilling operations have also created a slew of environmental problems. Poisonous metals and radioactive elements contaminate surface water and soil, while extractive processes drain rivers and pollute the air.

In 2008, M. Dulamjav witnessed mining's devastating impact on her community in western Mongolia's Zavkhan province. She noticed a rapid increase in the number of mining claims and discovered that many of the claims were illegal, made possible only because mining companies had bribed the local government. Concerned with her community's health, M. Dulamjav launched a local campaign to raise awareness about the negative impacts of mining.

Although she aimed to have the illegal mines shut down, she also knew that that singular focus might polarize the community because many local people worked in the mines. In order to raise awareness around illegal mining and its health impacts, M. Dulamjav framed her campaign primarily around human health and began to receive support from local women.

With support from MONES, M. Dulamjav began teaching communities in Zavkhan about human and women's rights, mining laws, and how illegal mining activities destroy their health. In 2010, she mobilized women-led grassroots groups in the province to monitor mining licenses and identify mines that operated without a license. The groups began peer exchanges with women from different provinces. They shared advocacy tools and lessons on how to influence local authorities and hold them accountable.

Adapting lessons she learned through these peer exchanges helped M. Dulamjav strengthen her own advocacy. She started to appear in local media, reporting on mining's adverse effects on both the environment and human health, and demanding the closure of illegal mining sites. Her powerful campaign forced a nearby illegal mine to be shuttered.

## **LESSONS FROM THIS CASE**

- » Laws aimed at curbing mining's negative environmental impacts are often not implemented.
- » Information about local mining laws, environmental and health implications of mining, and human rights needs to be accessible to mining communities.
- » Rather than demanding all mines in the region be closed, Zavkhan's women garnered support by focusing on only one mine that operated without a license.
- » Women who were better informed about how the environment impacts their livelihoods, rights and security showed a stronger interest in environmental issues.





Rural lives are directly affected by the health of the environment. Photo: Guatemala, Global Greengrants.

## BROADER LESSONS

- » Women need information about the environment's role in their livelihoods, rights and security.
- » Women can sometimes relate more to environmental issues when they are framed within the context of health.
- » Monitoring the implementation of laws and policies is a key tool for effecting change in rural areas.
- » Media is a powerful tool for grassroots groups trying to challenge larger, more powerful institutions or corporations.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- » Women who live in remote or provincial areas often lack access to information about environmental and rights issues. Funding can be used to:
  - Help women travel to meet, organize and engage in peer learning and training.
  - Provide training in environmental impact monitoring, advocacy and negotiation.
  - Develop media campaigns that can spread messaging nationally and internationally.
- » Health and livelihoods are key entry points for grassroots funders to help communities understand women's rights and the impact that environmental degradation, including climate change, has on women's lives.



# Bringing It All Together: Principles, Lessons and Practical Steps

The examples throughout this Guide show how effective small- to mid-sized grants from both environmental and women's funders can be to aid women's efforts to stop climate change impacts in their communities and the world around them and to enhance women's rights.

Global Greengrants, the International Network of Women's Funds (INWF) and the Alliance of Funds are moving beyond grantmaking silos, and we encourage other environmental and women's funders to do the same. Collaboration between our organizations is increasing funding opportunities and access to resources for women at the grassroots level who are implementing sustainable, scalable solutions to climate change's immediate challenges.

The following is an example of one of these successful collaborations.

## **An Emerging Collaboration Within the Global Greengrants and INWF Networks**

The Solidarity in Action Fund (FASOL), an environmental and social justice fund in Mexico, began receiving an increasing number of requests for women-led projects from grantees. At the same time, Semillas, a Mexican women's rights fund and INWF member, was getting more requests related to women defending their resource rights.

Because environmental issues were not a traditional area of expertise for Semillas, the fund asked FASOL for advice on environmental justice grantmaking that could also support a women's rights mission. In turn, Semillas helped FASOL develop a deeper understanding of gender in environmental and social justice funding.

The two groups then decided to collaborate to increase their influence within the broader Mexican funding community, creating an alliance of Mexican grantmakers focused on supporting grassroots environmental and social justice efforts.

The violence and intimidation directed at women environmental activists concerns both FASOL and Semillas. Semillas is collaborating with the Urgent Action Fund for Women's Rights, another INWF member, to further develop its Security and Self Care Program for Human Rights Defenders and reverse the culture of impunity surrounding violence against women in Mexico.

Collaboration has other benefits, as well. For instance, as environmental and women’s funders expand and deepen their relationships, they will be in a much stronger position to influence climate change debates and policies at all levels. They will also be able to monitor the implementation and effects of climate policy and finance through an expanded partner network. Funders can raise governments’, multilateral institutions’ and other donors’ awareness of the lack of funding for women-led climate work, and push for more policies, programs and funding structures to address this disparity.

## Key Principles and Lessons from the Summit on Women and Climate

Principles for Funders	Lessons for Grantmaking
Break down silos between environment, climate and women’s rights funding by approaching issues from a community perspective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Bridge intersecting issue areas by supporting local causes and voices.</li> <li>» Honor the expertise and struggles of local people by directly funding their work.</li> <li>» Uncover potential donor alliances and better coordinate funding.</li> <li>» Identify common values that inform effective collaboration.</li> </ul>
Give small grants to catalyze action that will significantly impact women’s rights and climate justice. From small seeds grow big trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Be a flexible funder by developing a portfolio of new and emerging groups.</li> <li>» Get critical, timely resources to nascent groups, with nominal application and reporting requirements.</li> <li>» Lessen transaction costs by identifying and coordinating with other funders and intermediaries that are specifically structured to work at the local level.</li> <li>» Increase small funding incrementally as grantees grow in strength. Consistent support can make all the difference.</li> </ul>
Support networking and information sharing between grassroots women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Be aware that women often share knowledge, debate ideas or even mobilize action through informal associations and channels. They need creative funding that gives them flexibility to propose and design their own mechanisms for exchange.</li> <li>» Support gatherings by covering food, transportation and childcare costs.</li> <li>» Put funding decisions in the hands of people who intimately understand local gender dynamics and networks.</li> </ul>

Principles for Funders	Lessons for Grantmaking
Fund grassroots involvement in local, regional and national consultations on environmental and climate policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Support organizations with the capacity to connect grassroots leaders with policy makers and networks in which local voices are underrepresented.</li> <li>» Support trainings for local groups and organizations on national policy and its implications. Provide strategic analysis of key players and policy spaces.</li> <li>» Fund follow-up and monitoring after a policy decision.</li> </ul>
Understand the considerable risks women activists face in addressing climate change and support actions to ensure their security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Analyze the level of risk to activists in the groups you fund.</li> <li>» Ensure your own organization has ethics protocols around the use of grantees' names and images.</li> <li>» Help grantees develop security plans, media strategy, an urgent alert system and access to safe houses.</li> <li>» Actively engage with organizations supporting human rights defenders.</li> <li>» Respond quickly and flexibly, funding both the work and the activists themselves (salaries, transportation and other expenses).</li> </ul>
Support coastal and drought-affected communities facing climate-related displacement by helping preserve socio-cultural integrity and physical and economic security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Support planning and decision-making as communities consider options for their most vulnerable members—women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities.</li> <li>» Support women's specific needs. Women and girls are integral to communities' cohesion and resilience after relocation, and their voices must be heard.</li> <li>» Understand that communities going through relocation are already in crisis, so proposal and reporting requirements should not be burdensome. Community leaders should be engaging primarily with the community, not donors.</li> <li>» Make periodic in-person visits to communities facing relocation.</li> </ul>
Leverage funder influence to advocate for women's rights and climate change issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Advocate with others to ensure that climate change funding reaches grassroots women and fosters better gender sensitivity in global climate policy debates.</li> <li>» Advocate as donors for multi-lateral and government climate-finance mechanisms to become responsive and accessible to grassroots and women-led initiatives.</li> <li>» Use donor influence and leverage to help grassroots women's organizations gain access to policy makers.</li> <li>» Join a growing movement of foundations adopting climate-friendly asset-investment strategies that support a sustainable and equitable economy.</li> </ul>



Solutions to climate change exist—not just in the halls of buildings that host international climate meetings, but also on the front lines of the battle to save our planet, where grassroots women leaders are already stepping up to the challenge. At the same time, women’s rights need to be protected and promoted more than ever as climate change strains social dynamics and competition over resources and exacerbates existing inequalities.

That is why it is key that any grantmaker that wants to fund these extremely valuable activities understands that grassroots women require significantly more support and effective collaboration across funding networks.

To start, funders must understand the basic concepts from a climate-justice and gender-justice approach, establish and build from common values, and actively seek partnerships with organizations that provide complementary expertise. Funders must also become familiar with the global climate change policy and finance landscape in order to better influence the flow of grants to grassroots women. Finally, funders should thoughtfully examine their existing grant portfolios and prioritize learning from previous experience.

The case studies that begin on page 18 illustrate how small- to mid-sized grants from both environmental and women’s funders can catalyze women’s efforts to stop climate change impacts in their communities, and to protect and enhance women’s access to natural resources.

To effectively support these efforts, funders need to understand how to increase access, opportunities and freedoms for women and ensure their funding does not create new burdens. Impactful grantmaking for grassroots women means analyzing climate change effects through a women’s rights’ lens and analyzing women’s rights with a climate lens. It means thinking in terms of justice and equality, not just carbon credits and greenhouse gases. It also means recognizing grassroots action’s significant impact on climate change in a variety of areas, ranging from indigenous territorial rights to women’s recycling enterprises.

Grassroots women are leading initiatives to stop companies from destroying forests and territory, protect their families from pollution and toxic waste, promote alternative energy, create more sustainable agriculture, and amplify their voices at negotiation tables. When women fight for their families’ and communities’ health and well-being, they also fight for the health and well-being of the environment.

This Guide is the beginning of a journey funders must undertake to effectively address climate justice and women’s rights. It is a call to action to make thoughtful investments. We must invest in the people who have the most to lose and who are acting now.

# Appendices

## » Appendix A: Climate Activities and Grantmaking Opportunities

Alternative Energy	Includes alternative transportation and clean energy, such as solar, biogas and wind. Grantmaking opportunities range from funding at the household level (cookstoves that reduce firewood use) to financing municipal alternative-energy initiatives.
Alternatives to Hydropower	Hydropower, under the guise of “clean energy,” is drawing critical resources away from more just and sustainable climate change mitigation activities. Not only do hydropower dams destroy communities, but they are also a large source of methane emissions. Efforts to reduce the deforestation and loss of vegetation that occur due to dams, along with reduction of reservoir surface area are both climate relevant.
Enhancement of Local Voices in Climate Change Policy Discussions, Awareness and Forecasting	Grants can finance grassroots involvement in local, national and international policy debates about climate change mitigation and adaptation. Grantmakers can also help build grassroots awareness about the potential impacts of climate change and improve local planning for the future. This might include involving local voices in policy debates around carbon trading, carbon taxes, global climate legislation, pollution caps and regulations, power plant emission targets, forest preservation, vehicle emissions, green building codes and disaster preparedness.
Extractive Activities (oil, gas, coal, mineral and gem mining)	The extraction, processing and shipment of oil, gas, coal, minerals and gems require a huge amount of energy. Coal burning and oil and gas drilling also produce carbon emissions, and coal extraction techniques like mountaintop removal are extremely destructive to landscapes that store carbon. Industrial open-pit mining for minerals and gems frequently destroys forests and biodiversity and creates roads that have immediate spin-off impacts like community degradation and illegal logging. Grants can support grassroots communities understand their land rights and ability to protect customary land.

Forest Protection and Governance	Forests are carbon sinks, meaning they absorb far more carbon than they release. Grants related to forest governance and management, land tenure, indigenous territorial rights and sustainable logging are all climate relevant.
Palm Oil Production and Distribution Alternatives	Palm oil production can be particularly destructive to forests, and palm oil products have an enormous carbon footprint because of their long-distance distribution. Grants can help implement more environmentally friendly palm oil production and distribution.
Reduction of Industrial Greenhouse Gases	Grantmaking can focus on supporting local, national or international efforts to reduce power plant and refinery emissions.
Rehabilitation of Natural Resources to Increase Resilience to Climate Change	Grants often focus on coastal areas affected by climate change and are frequently connected to people's livelihoods. For example, mangrove restoration or coral reef rehabilitation and protection are extremely important to fisheries. Protecting coastal estuaries is also vital to sheltering against surges during tropical storms, cyclones or hurricanes.
Socioeconomic Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change	Grantmaking that increases people's ability to adapt their livelihoods to gradual and long-term climate changes can include relocating island communities facing rising seas and shoreline erosion, implementing sustainable farming methods and reducing disaster risks and planning for an uncertain future.
Solid Waste Reduction	Trash incineration releases carbon dioxide and methane, creates new landfills and often results in deforestation. Grantmaking can promote recycling and reducing consumer demand for non-recyclable products.
Sustainable Agriculture and Livestock Production	An estimated half of all human-caused greenhouse gases are related to industrial agriculture and livestock production. This includes burning vegetation to create grazing and farmland; synthetic fertilizer and petroleum-based pesticide use; and the energy used to process, package and distribute food products. Synthetic nitrogen fertilizer breaks down into nitrous oxide—the third most potent greenhouse gas behind carbon dioxide and methane. Grantmaking can support local, sustainable agriculture activities, training and awareness-raising to counter expansion of harmful industrial production.



## Appendix B: Useful Gender-Related Definitions

Baseline definitions of key concepts and terms from UNESCO's Gender Mainstreaming Implementation Framework, 2003.

**Empowerment** is the concept that women and men can take control of their lives, set their own agendas, gain skills, build self-confidence, solve problems and develop self-reliance. No one can empower another; only an individual can empower herself or himself to make choices or to speak out. However, institutions—including international cooperation agencies—can support processes that nurture individuals' or groups' self-empowerment.

**Gender Analysis** is the collection and analysis of gender-specific data. Men and women perform different roles, which give them different experiences, knowledge, talents and needs. Gender analysis explores these differences so that policies, programs and projects can identify and meet the disparate needs of men and women. Gender analysis also facilitates the strategic use of women's and men's distinct knowledge and skills.

**Gender Division of Labor** is the result of how each society divides work among men and women, according to what is considered suitable or appropriate to each gender.

**Gender Equity** is the process of being fair to men and women. To ensure fairness, measures must often be put in place to compensate for the historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from operating on a level playing field. Equity is a means; equality is the result.

**Gender Mainstreaming** is a process to make both women's and men's concerns and experiences integral dimensions of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and social spheres. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality. Mainstreaming gender concerns also improves the relevance of development agendas and shows that the costs of women's marginalization and gender inequalities are borne by all.

**Gender-Responsive Objectives** are program and project objectives that are nondiscriminatory, beneficial to both women and men and aimed at correcting gender imbalances.

**Sex-Disaggregated Data** is data on men and women that is collected and presented separately.

**Practical Needs** are what women or men perceive as immediate necessities, such as water, shelter and food.

**Strategic (Gender) Interests** are interventions that focus on fundamental issues related to women's (or less often men's) subordination and gender inequities. Strategic gender interests are long-term, usually not material and are often related to structural changes in society regarding women's status and equity. They include legislation for equal rights, reproductive choice and increased participation in decision-making. The notion of "strategic gender needs," first coined in 1985 by Maxine Molyneux, helped develop gender planning and policy development tools, such as the Moser Framework, which are currently being used by development institutions around the world.

## Appendix C: A Gendered Grantmaking Continuum

*[Adapted by Linksbridge for its gender and grantmaking workshops. The original source of the continuum was developed in the reproductive health sector and references the publication *How to Integrate Gender into HIV/AIDS Programs: Using Lessons Learned from USAID and Partner Organizations* by Anne Eckman. (Gender and HIV/AIDS Task Force, Interagency Gender Working Group and United States Agency for International Development, 2004. [www.prb.org/pdfo4/HowToIntegrGendrHIV.pdf](http://www.prb.org/pdfo4/HowToIntegrGendrHIV.pdf).)]*

The Gendered Grantmaking Continuum tool was developed through a project on gender and global grantmaking initiated by Grantmakers Without Borders, with support from the Channel Foundation and the International Network of Women's Funds, and augmentation from the International Human Rights Funders Group. It is intended to help grantmakers assess various approaches to integrating gender perspectives into their work—both within their own organizations and in their partnerships with grantees.

The primary objective behind gender integration in grantmaking is to support projects, programs and policies that are:

1. Gender Blind/Neutral—do not reinforce existing gender inequalities.
2. Gender Sensitive—recognize existing gender inequalities.
3. Gender Transformative—define women's and men's gender roles and relations.
4. Gender Empowering—help people of all genders take action to claim their rights.
5. Gender Justice—seek sustainable, structural change in gender relations, along with redress/justice for discrimination and violence committed as a result of gender inequality.

This tool is meant to assess the degree of integration of a gender perspective in any given project and organization. The tool works as a continuum, and each stage of the continuum is described in detail in the following sections. It can be visualized as follows:



### GENDER BLIND/NEUTRAL

- » A gender-neutral approach is one in which a gender analysis is assumed unnecessary and irrelevant.
- » This approach assumes neutrality is acceptable, and ignores the reality that we all live in a gendered world.
- » Neutrality reinforces and reproduces gender injustices, exploits inequalities and reinforces stereotypes.
- » Literally, to be gender “blind” is to refuse to see gendered differences.

- » Examples of programming that takes a gender-blind approach include:
  - Education programs that do not assess how gender differences affect access to schools, or the underlying causes of those access issues.
  - Reproductive health programs that use a virile, strong man to promote condom use, or that focus on encouraging women to negotiate safe sex with male partners.
- » An organization that is gender-neutral does not have a gender analysis or policies related to gender in its programming approach. It is also unlikely to have mechanisms in place to ensure fair hiring practices, employee diversity and gender-appropriate personnel policies.

## GENDER SENSITIVE

- » A gender-sensitive approach recognizes that people's needs are different and accommodates societal roles without attempting to reduce inequalities.
- » This approach uses gender solely as a means to reach set development goals. It addresses gender norms, roles and access to resources only as needed to reach project goals.
- » An example of gender-sensitive approaches in programming are education programs that ensure that equal numbers of boys and girls are supported to attend school but do not investigate the different reasons why boys and girls drop out.
- » An organization that is gender sensitive may do "gender by numbers" and view effectiveness as simply inclusion of women. For instance, it will be satisfied to measure the gender sensitivity of its external programs or internal staffing by the number of women involved. It will not have a gender analysis that assesses position or access to power by gender (i.e., whether women have decision-making roles in the organization or in the program) and will have limited attention to diversity in hiring or staffing practices.

## GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE

- » A gender-transformative approach seeks to create more equitable relationships between genders and challenges gender and societal norms.
- » An example of a gender-transformative approach in programming is an income-generation training project in which women are given instruction in hand-pump repair rather than traditionally defined skills such as sewing or tailoring.
- » An organization that is gender transformative will have a gender analysis in its programming that questions traditionally defined gender roles and perceptions. Hiring and staffing practices will also include a commitment to diversity and ongoing internal dialogue about gender and will seek an appropriate gender balance in decision-making roles.

## GENDER EMPOWERING

- » A gender-empowering approach aims to equalize the balance of power and addresses structural and societal barriers, which empowers vulnerable people to claim their rights.
- » An example of the empowerment approach in programming is supporting women to become directly involved in asking their country's presidential candidates their perspectives on women's rights.



- » An organization that is gender empowering will actively seek to support people of all genders in assessing their priorities and power imbalances. It will also balance its own gender-justice values with the need to fully listen to the priorities of its constituents. Internally, it will back up a stated commitment to gender empowerment with processes that ensure reality checks and an ongoing assessment of how power is actually held and used.

## GENDER JUSTICE

- » A gender-justice approach aims for a full realization of rights for all people of all genders and gender expressions.
- » Gender justice is intersectional, meaning it recognizes a multitude of masculinities and femininities, nuanced by history, culture, social class and other factors that shape our varied views of the world.
- » The following is an example of gender justice programming:
  - After the Rwanda genocide, Gacaca courts were designed to reconcile the population. However, in 2004 the Rwanda Women's Network (RWN) realized that these courts were widely unproductive due to widespread intimidation of potential witnesses. Thus, RWN sought and received a grant from Urgent Action Fund-Africa to stage plays across Rwanda that encouraged women survivors to get involved in the process. The plays were clearly urgent, as the success of the Gacaca courts required participation by victims; yet the plays were also part of a broader social scheme to integrate women survivors back into the community. As a result of the plays, women's participation increased and the Gacaca courts began functioning as originally intended.
- » An organization that has a gender-justice approach will work on several levels. It will seek to change structures and systems of oppression (legal systems, community perceptions), recognize and address the wider implications that working for gender justice has on the organization's staff (backlash, private vs. public identities) and practice intersectionality in its internal and program analyses.

## Appendix D: References and Additional Resources

### REFERENCES

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The Gender and Disaster Network (<http://www.gdnonline.org>)

The Gender and Water Alliance (<http://genderandwater.org>)

GenderCC (<http://gendercc.net>)

Global Gender and Climate Alliance (<http://gender-climate.org>)

United Nations Population Fund (<http://www.unfpa.org>)

Women in Europe for a Common Future (<http://www.wecf.eu>)

Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (<http://www.wocan.org>)

Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (<http://www.wecaninternational.org>)

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